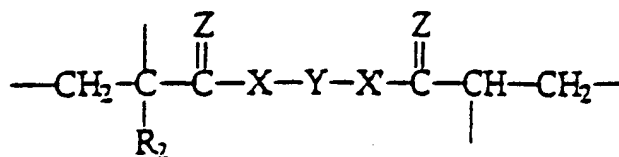


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14 (cancelled).

15 (previously presented). A method of separating molecules comprising providing a cross-linked polymer gel comprising a cross-linking moiety of the formula:



wherein

X and X' are independently selected from the group consisting of -O-, -S- and -NR-, where R is H, alkyl or cycloalkyl,

Y is an optionally substituted non-aromatic divalent linking group,

Z is O or S; and

R₂ is a C₁-C₄ alkyl group,

provided that when said crosslinked polymer gel is a non-aqueous polymer gel and R₂ is CH₃ and Y is -CH₂-CH₂-, X, X' and Z are not all O, placing a sample containing the molecules to be separated onto the gel, and subjecting the gel and sample to a separation technique.

16 (previously presented). A method according to claim 15 wherein the separation technique is electrophoresis.

17 (previously presented). A method according to claim 15 wherein the sample includes a biomolecule selected from proteins, enzymes, peptides, oligo- or polynucleotides and carbohydrates.

18 (cancelled).